

CAL, 27-MONT, 32-

✓California

Monterey

Monterey

1P

State

County

Town or Vicinity

Structure

Convent of St. Catherine at Monterey (CAL-1169)

History: Erected in 1850 by Don Manuel Jimeno for a hotel. The first convent school in California established here in 1851 by three Dominican Sisters who arrived at Monterey in 1850. Conception Arguella, whose tragic romance with Count Nickolas Rezanof has been the subject of verse and prose, became the first native Californian to take the vows. When the convent was moved to Benicia in 1854, Sister Domingo became Mother Superior of the convent.

(Over)

After vacated by the convent the building was used as a chapel and parish house. Later it was rented to private parties, but rapidly fell into ruins and was torn down soon after 1885.

Description: Large two-story street-front adobe with lean to at rear. Lower five or six feet of walls were constructed of stone and the street front was plastered.

References: Historic Spots in California - Hoover and Rensch.

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